

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 11-15, 21-25, 31, 32, 34-39 and 41-43 are currently pending; Claims 1, 11, 21, 31, and 32 have been amended; Claim 40 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer thereto; and Claims 41-43 are added by the present amendment. The changes and additions to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification, for example, by page 16, lines 6-18. The changes and additions to the claims do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 11-15, 21-25, 31, 32, and 34-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2010/0050078 to Refuah et al. (hereinafter “Refuah”) in view of Toyryla et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0083086, hereinafter “Toyryla”) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0034631 to Julliard et al. (hereinafter “Julliard”).

Applicant would like to thank Examiner Bromell and Supervisory Patent Examiner Alam for conducting an interview with Applicant’s Representative, Monica Ullagaddi, on September 1, 2011. During the interview, proposed claim amendments similar to those presented herein were discussed. Examiner Bromell indicated that the proposed claim amendments (*i.e.*, incorporating features similar to elements recited in dependent Claim 40 into each of the independent claims) would overcome the outstanding rejection applying Refuah, Toyryla, and Julliard.

Applicant’s amended Claim 1 is directed to an information transmission apparatus, comprising:

search means for receiving, from a first user, an introduction request including search key information that is a subset of taste information of the first user, the search key

information being selected by the first user concurrently with generating the introduction request, and searching for a second user associated with taste information having a resemblance to the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored in association with the plurality of users in the storage means;

retrieval means for retrieving at least taste information or group information associated with the second user for introduction to the first user, the retrieved taste information or group information not being associated with the first user;

...

wherein the plurality of taste information includes page titles for music information pages and corresponding uniform resource locators (URLs) for the music information pages, the music information pages being selected by each of the plurality of users.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Office Action apparently acknowledges, and it is respectfully submitted, that Refuah fails to disclose the search means, retrieval means, and transmission means of Claim 1. Rather, the Office Action cites paragraph [0073] of Toyryla as teaching the claimed search means. In this regard, Toyryla describes that, when a group member decides to activate a dynamic talk group, an SIP group activation message is sent to his user control-plane-function (U-CPF) and that this group activation message may contain an indication that it is a request to join a dynamic talk group, information about the creating-user for the dynamic talk group (URL) and a unique name (URL) for the group (*e.g.*, SAILCLUB-UdtP9zZy3VM@poc.fi, in which the random part is created using a PIN code and an algorithm). However, the cited portion of Toyryla fails to describe that either the information about the creating-user for the dynamic talk group or the unique name for the group is a subset of taste information (*i.e.*, page titles for music information pages and corresponding URLs for the music information pages) of the taste information of the first user, as specified in amended Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Toyryla fails to disclose or render obvious the claimed search means.

The Office Action acknowledges that neither Refuah nor Toyryla disclose or render obvious, “searching for a second user associated with taste information having a resemblance to the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored in association with the plurality of users in the storage means,” as recited in Claim 1, and cites paragraphs [0005] through [0007] of Julliard for these teachings. In this regard, Julliard describes a recommender that provides (automatic) personalized recommendations that take into account similarities between people, based on their user profiles. *See, e.g.*, paragraph [0006] of Julliard. However, Applicant respectfully submits that Julliard does not disclose the claimed search key information insofar as Julliard fails to disclose or render obvious that (1) search key information is selected by the first user; and (2) search key information is selected concurrently with generating an introduction request. Julliard further fails to disclose or render obvious that taste information includes page titles for music information pages and corresponding uniform resource locators (URLs) for the music information pages, as recited in amended Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Julliard fails to disclose or render obvious the claimed search means, and therefore, fails to cure the deficiencies of Refuah and Toyryla.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Refuah, Toyryla, and Julliard set forth in the Office Action fails to disclose or render obvious “search means for receiving, from a first user, an introduction request including search key information that is a subset of taste information of the first user, the search key information being selected by the first user concurrently with generating the introduction request, and searching for a second user associated with taste information having a resemblance to the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored in association with the plurality of users in the storage means,” and that “the plurality of taste information includes page titles for music information pages and corresponding uniform resource locators (URLs)

for the music information pages, the music information pages being selected by each of the plurality of users,” as recited in Applicant’s amended independent Claim 1. At least insofar as the combination of Refuah, Toyryla, and Julliard set forth in the Office Action fails to disclose or render obvious the claimed search means, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination fails to disclose or render obvious a “retrieval means for retrieving at least taste information or group information associated with the second user for introduction to the first user, the retrieved taste information or group information not being associated with the first user,” as recited in Applicant’s amended Claim 1.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably defines over any proper combination of Refuah, Toyryla, and Julliard.

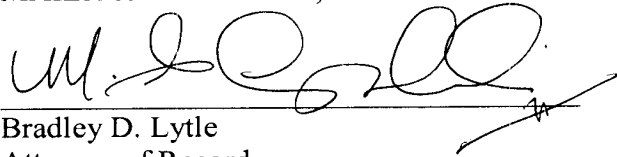
Independent Claims 11, 21, 31, and 32, although differing in scope and/or statutory class, patentably define over Refuah, Toyryla, and Julliard at least for reasons analogous to the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 1.

The present amendment also sets forth new Claims 41-43 for examination on the merits. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that these more detailed features are not disclosed or suggested by Refuah, Toyryla, and Julliard.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. J. O. S. A.', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

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